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THE NORTH CAROLINA
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,

RY

EDWARD GRAHAM DAVES.

1894.

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Yours faithfully
Edward Graham Davies.

THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI, 1783.

OMNIA RELIQUIT SERVARE REMPUBLICAM.

One hundred and ten years ago the Continental army of the Revolution was in Cantonment on the banks of the Hudson. It was that critical period in the history of our country which intervened between the cessation of hostilities and the founding of a new government. Friendships formed between the officers during the long struggle had grown into warm attachments amidst common dangers, privations and sufferings. The desire to perpetuate these associations, and to transmit them to coming generations, was the sentiment which gave birth to the Society of the Cincinnati, and no organization owes its origin to nobler purpose or more interesting circumstances.

The officers of the Line determined to create a permanent Military Order, which should continue and strengthen the ties formed in the service, and provide a fund for the support of indigent members of the Association. Who first conceived the idea is unknown, but it was probably Baron von Steuben, though the original plan of the organization was drawn by General Henry Knox. This was revised by a committee, and finally accepted on 13th May, 1783, at a

general meeting of officers representing all the regiments, which was presided over by General von Steuben, and was held at his headquarters in the Verplanck house near Fish-kill.

The Institution thus adopted declares that to perpetuate the memories of the Revolution, "as well as the mutual friendships which have been formed under the pressure of common danger, and in many instances cemented by the blood of the parties, the officers of the American army do hereby, in the most solemn manner, associate, constitute and combine themselves into one SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, to endure as long as they shall endure, or any of their eldest male posterity, and in failure thereof the collateral branches who may be judged worthy of becoming its supporters."

As the members of the new order had made a sacrifice of all personal interests to save the country in her hour of peril, and as now, like the old Roman hero Cincinnatus, they were about to lay aside the sword and resume their citizenship, they adopted the motto, *omnia reliquit servare rempublicam*, and styled themselves the Society of the Cincinnati.

The immutable principles of the Association were declared to be: "An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a human being is a curse instead of a blessing.

"An unalterable determination to promote and cherish, between the respective States, that union and national honour so essentially necessary to their happiness and the future dignity of the American empire.

"To render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers. This spirit will dictate brotherly kind-

ness in all things, and particularly extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the Society, towards those officers and their families who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it."

The army was about to disband, and the officers would be widely scattered; therefore the General Society was, for convenience, and "for the sake of frequent communications," divided into thirteen "State Meetings," one for each Colony. The sessions of the General Society were to be triennial, that body to consist of the general officers and of five delegates from each State Society.

The permanent fund, only the interest of which was to be used for the beneficiaries, was made up of the entrance fees of a month's pay for each member, which varied from the \$26.60 of the Lieutenant to the \$166. of the Major-General. In some of the State Societies this fund has by judicious investment now grown to a sum of many thousands.

The claims to original membership are defined by the declaration that "All the officers of the American army, as well those who have resigned with honour, after three years' service in the capacity of officers, or who have been deranged by the resolutions of Congress, as those who shall have continued to the end of the war, have the right to become parties to this Institution; * * * and as a testimony of affection to the memory and the offspring of such officers as have died in the service, their eldest male branches shall have the same right of becoming members as the children of the actual members of the Society.

"And as there are, and will at all times be, men in the respective States eminent for their abilities and patriotism, whose views may be directed to the same laudable objects as those of the Cincinnati, it shall be a rule to admit such

characters, as Honorary members of the Society, for their own lives only."

The Society adopted as an Order "a medal of gold, suspended by a deep blue riband, edged with white, descriptive of the union of France and America." On the obverse are three Roman Senators presenting Cincinnatus with military ensigns; surrounding the figures the legend, *Omnia reliquit servare rempublicam*. On the reverse Fame crowning Cincinnatus with a wreath; below hands joined, with the motto *Esto Perpetua*, and around the whole, *Societas Cincinnatorum Instituta*, A. D. 1783.

Major L'Enfant, of the Continental Corps of Engineers, to whom this design was referred, objected to a medal as an unsuitable emblem for a military Order, and suggested instead the Bald Eagle, as peculiar to America, and distinguished from that of other climes by its white head and tail. The eagle is of gold, displayed, supporting on its breast the figure of the medal. Grasped in its talons are golden olive branches, with the leaves in green enamel, and above its head is an olive wreath to which the clasp is attached. The head and tail are enamelled in white, the body and wings are of gold, and the medal on its breast and back is enamelled in green and blue. This beautiful decoration is the one now worn by all members of the Society. The officers of the French navy presented to General Washington a very artistic and costly copy of the Cincinnati eagle richly set in diamonds, which has been handed down to successive Presidents-General, and is now in the possession of Hon. Hamilton Fish of New York.

At the second meeting of the Society, held in the Cantonnements on 19th June, 1783, the organization was completed by formally adopting the Eagle as the emblem of the Order, by directing that a diploma on parchment be given to

each member, and by electing General Washington President-General and General Knox Secretary-General.

In the course of the year all of the thirteen State Societies were formed, that of North Carolina in October at Hillsborough, with General Jethro Sumner as President, and Rev. Adam Boyd, Brigade Chaplain, as Secretary. To the list of the original members, sixty in number, printed for the first time in the May number of this MAGAZINE for 1893, should be added the names of ~~Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dixon and Major George Doherty.~~*

In our generation, when the Society of the Cincinnati is so limited in its membership, and so entirely devoid of any political significance that the mere fact of its existence is unknown to the great majority of Americans, it is difficult to understand the bitter storm of opposition which it at first encountered. Writers and orators proclaimed that a body existing by hereditary right would become a privileged aristocratic class, antagonistic to the spirit of our institutions and a dangerous element in a republican commonwealth. Judge Burke of South Carolina attacked it in a virulent pamphlet; Mirabeau echoed his words from across the water; Jefferson demanded that the Order be annihilated, and John Adams wrote from Paris that "the formation of the Society was the first step taken to deface the beauty of our temple of liberty." State after State declared through legislative committees that the members of the Cincinnati were unworthy of American citizenship, and the Congress at Annapolis threatened to disfranchise them unless they abolished the hereditary feature of membership.

In New York the Tammany Society, or Columbian Order, as it was originally called, was founded in 1789 to antago-

*See also an article on the Cincinnati in No. 1 of Vol. XII, 1892.

nize that of the Cincinnati, and was the first of those ultra-democratic organizations which glorified the French Revolution and which were so detested by Washington. It is a striking commentary on the trustworthiness of political prophecy that while the Order of the Cincinnati has been of little weight in the history of the nation, and is now entirely without political influence, its old rival, with its membership of thousands and its arbitrary though nominally democratic methods, has gone on increasing in power and prestige until it has grown into the most formidable, and possibly most dangerous, political organization in the Union.

Moved by this opposition so wide-spread throughout the States, some prominent members withdrew from the Society, and others laid aside its insignia. In France however the new Order was received with enthusiasm. Major L'Enfant wrote from Paris in December, 1783, to von Steuben and Washington: "Here they are more ambitious to obtain the Order of the Cincinnati than to be decorated with the cross of St. Louis. * * * This Institution they consider as a monument erected to republican virtues, as the fundamental basis of a cordial union between the different States, and as a new tie which assures the duration of that reciprocal friendship which France has devoted to America."

The first meeting of the General Society was held in the State-House at Philadelphia in May, 1784, and North Carolina was represented by Majors Reading Blount of Beaufort County, and Griffith J. McRee of Bladen. Radical changes in the character of the Institution were there proposed, especially the abolition of the primogeniture feature of transmission of membership. General Washington, in deference to public sentiment, urgently advised these changes, and even intimated his purpose of resigning from

the Society unless they were adopted. Through his influence the meeting accepted the proposed alterations; but as the delegates had no power to bind their respective States by such action, the amended Institution was referred back to the State Societies, and Washington issued to them a circular letter urging a ratification of the amendments. The North Carolina Society accepted them at a meeting held 4th July, 1784. In the other States the discussion of the various propositions dragged on for several years; some of the Societies taking no definite action on the amendments, and others refusing to ratify them. Finally, as it became evident that it was impossible to obtain unanimous consent to the organic changes which would mark a wide departure from the original principles of the Association, the General Society, at its meeting on 7th May, 1800, voted "that the Institution of the Cincinnati remains as it was originally proposed and adopted by the officers of the American Army at their Cantonments on the Hudson River in 1783."

The earliest evidence of the formation of the North Carolina Society is found in the two following letters from Gen. Sumner and Rev. Adam Boyd, which are on file in the office of the Secretary General of the Cincinnati:

HALIFAX, N. CAROLINA, 28th October, 1783.

SIR:—At the request of the officers of the Line of this State, I do myself the honour to return you their thanks & my own for your favour, covering a letter from his excellency the Chevalier De la Luzerne, and other papers.

The officers being highly pleased with the Institution, will most cheerfully concur in any measures that shall be adopted for promoting its benevolent designs. Not to support such an institution betrays, in their opinion, a want of public virtue.

It appears to be the sense of the Societies to the Southward, that the first general meeting should be held at Fredericksburg, in Virginia. That place, it is tho't, is nearly central, and most convenient for the Presi-

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dent-General. The compliance of the Northern Societies in this will give us very great pleasure.

I shall always be extremely glad to hear from & to correspond with you, and have the honour to be, with great respect,

Your most obedient & very humble servant,

JETHRO SUMNER,
Brig.-Gen'l and President.

HON. MAJOR-GENERAL, BARON DE STEUBEN.

WILMINGTON, CAPE FEAR, 29th Dec'r, 1783.

SIR:—In October a few officers of this State met at Hillsborough & laid the foundation of a society upon the plan of the Cincinnati. Among other things they resolved that the president should acquaint the Secretary-General with their desire, that the first general meeting should be held at Fredericksburg, in Virginia. That place is tho't to be nearly central and more convenient than any other for the President-General. This last was most decisive with them.

The president having been obliged to go home before any letters could have been written, I was desired to write to you on the subject. This I did upon the spot, & gave my letter to a gentleman coming directly here. Since my return to this place I find that letter was lost, and not knowing that general Sumner has had an opportunity of conveying one to you, I again address you, lest the wishes of the N. Carolina Society should not reach you in proper time, and I should incur their censure, tho' very undeservedly.

A pamphlet said to be the production of a judge Burke in So. Carolina, has created opponents to the Cincinnati. It has been in this town, but I have not yet got a sight of it. His objections, I am told, are founded upon a surmise that the Cincinnati mean to establish a numerous peerage in direct contradiction to the federal union of the States. This he has tortured out of the "hereditary succession." The whole appears to me altogether chimerical: but there are swarms of Butterfly-statesmen & patriots who flutter & strutt in the sunshine of safety & peace. These things affect to be lynx-eyed, and however groundless their cries may be, yet being generally of a popular tone, they are received "as proofs from holy writ."

Terrible things have been threatened against us, & I do expect our Assembly, in their April sessions, will be moved to suppress the Society. At that time we have a meeting, and if you can furnish anything to strengthen our hands, you will render us a very acceptable service.

As our President lives near 200 miles from a sea-port town or post-office, letters for him had better be sent here. I am about to change my place

of residence, but if I do leave this, our vice-president (general Clark) and several officers will be here & take care of such letters.

I have the honour to be, with much respect,

Your very humble and most obedient servant,

ADAM BOYD, *Sec'y.*

P. S.—I would most gladly correspond with the secretary of your State Society. If you will please tell him so you will do me a favour. My address is Rev'd A. B., Wilmington, Cape Fear. This is the South part of No. Carolina, & vessels from Boston often come here. If I remove, my address will not be changed.

HONORABLE GENERAL KNOX.

The hostility to the Cincinnati at the very outset, as shown in this letter, is noteworthy, and the outcome of the opposition in the Legislature is seen in a communication from Adam Boyd of a twelvemonth later date. At a meeting of the North Carolina Society, held at Fayetteville on 4th July, 1784, the Secretary was ordered to address a circular letter to the other State Societies. The following copy of this was made from the archives of the Maryland Cincinnati, and the letter is also among the papers of the Massachusetts Society. It is of interest as showing the attitude of the State Assembly toward the Association, and as reporting the action of the North Carolina Cincinnati on the proposed amendments to the Institution:

CAPE FEAR, NO. CAROLINA, 10th Jany., 1785.

SIR:—I am ordered by the Cincinnati of this State to acquaint you that, in consequence of a former adjournment, we had a meeting at Fayette Ville on the 4th of July, when the circular-letter, with the institution as altered and amended, was read and highly approved.

The meeting then proceeded to frame their bye-Laws, and to make such regulations as they tho't might promote the friendly and benevolent intentions of the Society.

We had hopes that the Assembly would take our funds under their direction and aid the general design; but tho' the ablest Members of both Houses were on our side, yet the Majority was Against us.

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Waiting the event of this Application, I deferred writing, and am truly sorry I cannot give a more agreeable account of it. Yet this disappointment will not affect the Zeal of Our Members, and we flatter ourselves the Opposition will soon die.

It is the earnest wish of this meeting to hold correspondence with the different State Meetings. This, it is tho't, might be of general advantage, and contribute to that harmony which is the Soul of the Society.

I am, with much respect,

Yr most obedient servant,

ADAM BOYD, *Sec.*

SECRETARY TO THE CINCINNATI IN MARYLAND.

This second letter, enclosing a copy of the by-laws, is addressed to General Otho H. Williams, of the Maryland Cincinnati, who served so brilliantly under Greene in the Guilford campaign:

NEW BERNE, NO. CAROLINA, 20th May, 1785.

SIR:—In obedience to orders, you will herewith receive a copy of the bye-laws of this State meeting; and I was likewise ordered to send a copy of the institution, with the names of our members, on parchment. But the gentleman appointed for that purpose has not sent me the parchment, neither is the roll of names by any means compleat. At our annual meeting I hope these and some other things will be better regulated.

I beg, Sir, you will excuse the liberty I have taken in troubling you with the inclosed letters. My reason for taking it was, I knew not the name of an officer near a sea-port in your State or Virginia, whither I beg the sealed one may be sent. It is a transcript of that designed for the Secretary of the Maryland meeting.

I have the honor to be, with the utmost respect,

Your obedient and most humble servant,

ADAM BOYD.

HONBLE GENL. WILLIAMS, MARYLAND.

FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, July 11th, 1785.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR GOVERNING THIS STATE MEETING.

I. The first business of the anniversary meeting shall be the election of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a representation to the Society for the ensuing year. Three members shall be appointed Judges of the election, and any two of said Judges agreeing, shall declare

those having a majority duly elected; and in case of an equality of ballots the decision shall be by lot.

II. All elections shall be by ballot.

III. The President is, at all meetings, to regulate the decision of everything that may be proposed; to state and put questions, agreeably to the sense and intention of the members. He is also empowered whenever he shall think it necessary, to call an extraordinary meeting, on giving sixty days' previous notice by circular letters to the members in each district; and in any occasional absence of the President, and Vice-President, the members present shall appoint to the chair one of their number, who, whilst there, shall possess all the power of a President.

IV. The Secretary shall take the minutes of the proceedings of each meeting and produce them fairly transcribed in a book to the next meeting. In this book shall also be entered all such letters and Essays addressed to them or the Society as they may think worth recording, the Originals of which must likewise be filed: and the more effectually to guard against accidents, which may endanger the records, the proceedings shall be copied into two books; for one of which the Secretary shall be answerable, and the other shall be lodged with the President, and in Order to prevent errors, those books of record shall be carefully revised and compared at every meeting.

V. The Treasurer shall receive the Subscriptions and donations of members, and others, agreeably to the institution and under the direction of the meeting, shall manage their fund, and transact all their monied matters. He shall also lay before every annual meeting, a true state of the stock, interest, and other monies belonging to them, and disbursements made by their Orders; and he shall deliver to his successor the books, and all papers belonging to his Office, together with all monies remaining in his hands. And for the faithfull discharge of his trust, the said Treasurer, before he enters on the Duties of his Office, shall give bond and security to the President and Vice-President, on behalf of the meeting, in the sum of five Thousand pounds.

VI. At every annual meeting any number of members shall be competent to the business of the meeting, consistant with the rules of the Society.

VII. The transactions of extraordinary meetings shall be binding, untill the next annual meeting, which shall have the power to confirm or abolish their proceedings.

VIII. In conducting the business of the meeting, no question shall be put on a motion unless it be seconded. When any member speaks, he shall address himself to the Chair; and no member without permission shall speak more than twice on the same subject.

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IX. No part of the Interest arising from the principal fund, and other monies in the disposal of the meeting, shall be ordered in payment for charitable or other purposes, without the consent of two-thirds of the members present. Each member shall report to the annual meeting such objects of charity as may come within his notice; and agreeably to circumstances, the meeting shall grant orders for such sums of money as shall be judged necessary, and consistant with the state of finances.

X. It shall be the duty of any member elected to an Office in the meeting or Society, to Officiate agreeably to the appointment.

XI. All questions which are not determined by some express Rule, shall be decided by the Voice of a majority of the members present.

XII. Any member, who shall fail to attend the annual meeting, shall pay to the Treasurer the sum of five pounds currency, for the use of the meeting, unless his excuse be admitted by a majority of members present.

XIII. The expence of deligation to the Society, and all other necessary expenditures, shall be an equal contribution of the members of the meeting.

XIV. No member shall absent himself without permission, from the Service of the meeting.

XV. No member shall be expelled the Society, but by consent of two thirds of the members present at the annual meeting.

XVI. Should the meeting be reduced to the disagreeable necessity of expelling a member, the motive shall be entered at large on the minutes; and as soon as possible, notice shall be given to the Society by the President, who shall also by circular letter inform the different meetings thereof, specifying his name and situation, previous to his becoming a member.

XVII. These rules and regulations to be subject to any alterations or amendments at an annual meeting, two thirds of the members agreeing thereto.

ADAM BOYD, *Secy.*

(Copy).

On the death of General Jethro Sumner in March, 1785, Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Ashe, of New Hanover County, was chosen President of the North Carolina Cincinnati. Major Howell Tatum succeeded Rev. Adam Boyd as Secretary in 1787, and Major Robert Fenner was elected Treasurer. Major Fenner was the sole representative of North Carolina at the second triennial meeting of the General Society at Philadelphia in May, 1787, the other delegates, Colonel William Polk and Major Reading Blount,

failing to attend. Again at the third general meeting, in May, 1790, the only North Carolinian present was Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, of Warren County, and since that date the State has ceased to be represented.

A report has been found of but one meeting of the State Society. This is printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser* of August 12th, 1786, and is as follows:

HALIFAX, N. CAROLINA, July 8th.

The State meeting of the Cincinnati was held here on the 4th, agreeable to their adjournment from Fayetteville; the festivity of this auspicious day commenced by a suitable discharge of artillery about 11 o'clock. A large number of gentlemen from the town and different parts of the State met the Society at Mr. Barkdale's tavern, where an elegant dinner was prepared by the direction of their stewards. After dinner the following toasts were drunk, accompanied by separate discharges of cannon, and animated with the most rational mirth and patriotic enthusiasm:

1. The Memorable 4th July, 1776.
2. The United States of America.
3. The late American Army and Navy.
4. The Fleet and Armies of France who have served in America.
5. His Most Christian Majesty.
6. His Excellency General Washington.
7. May America be grateful to her Patriotic Children!
8. The Memory of the Brave Patriots who have fallen in defence of America.
9. May Virtue support what Courage has gained!
10. The Vindicators of the Rights of Mankind in every quarter of the Globe.
11. May America be an Asylum to the Persecuted of the Earth!
12. May a close Union of the States guard the Temple they have erected to Liberty!
13. May the Remembrance of this Day be a Lesson to Princes!

The afternoon was spent in the utmost conviviality, enlivened with a number of gay and political songs and toasts. In the evening the Society gave a ball, which was honoured with a numerous and splendid attendance of the ladies.

When and under what circumstances did the North Carolina Society become dormant? It has not died, for there

exists no record or report of any formal dissolution. What became of its funds? There is no evidence that they were given to any public institution, as was done in Virginia, or that they were divided among the members, as in Delaware. The answer to these questions must be given by some diligent searcher among North Carolina documents and archives, who will find the papers of the Society subsequent to 1790. Especially should inquiry be made as to the preservation of any papers of Major Tatum, the last known Secretary of the Cincinnati.

One can readily see that the difficulty of holding meetings of members scattered over a State so large, and with so imperfect means of communication, must have been insurmountable. Moreover many of the Continental officers had their land grants in districts over the mountains, and removed to what became the State of Tennessee. North Carolina, too, possessed no important city, like Boston or Charleston, to become the centre of commercial, social and political life; and it is probable that the Society of the Cincinnati died out simply from the impossibility of bringing the old members together for the election of new ones.

Six other of the State Societies ceased to exist for various reasons. In a memorandum presented to the Massachusetts Cincinnati in June, 1812, we find it stated that:

The Society was dissolved in Delaware by a formal vote in July, 1802, and the funds were resumed in due proportions by those who had furnished them.

In July, 1803 a proposition was made in the Connecticut Society for its dissolution. This proposition stood one year for the consideration of the members; it was adopted July, 1804, and the Society was accordingly then dissolved.

In December, 1803, the Virginia Society voted to bestow all their funds for the endowment of an Academy in the County of Rockbridge, denominated the Washington Academy, which had been the object of Gen. Washington's particular patronage and bounty.

In South Carolina the Society not being numerous, sometimes associates itself with a Society in Charleston called the "Revolution Society" in celebrating the 4th of July, and on other occasions.

In New Hampshire the Society is not formally dissolved, but it is seldom heard of; and in Georgia, North Carolina and Rhode Island very few persons (except now and then a veteran officer of the Revolutionary Army) seem even to know that such a society either does, or ever did exist.

The Society flourishes chiefly in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; while there are occasionally tokens of its existence in South Carolina and New Hampshire. In all other States it may be said to be very dormant or totally extinct.

It is curious that in this statement no mention is made of the Maryland Society, which, together with those of South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, has had an unbroken existence from the beginning until now. That of Rhode Island was revived in 1881, and Connecticut was re-admitted to the Order at the triennial meeting of the General Society in Boston in June, 1893. These eight Societies are now full of life and activity, and are all represented by large delegations at each recurring General Meeting. They are, however, greatly reduced in numbers by the dying out of some Revolutionary families, and the apathy of others in claiming their hereditary rights to membership. The whole number of the Cincinnati is now less than five hundred; while at the founding of the Order Massachusetts alone had three hundred and thirty-seven members and Pennsylvania two hundred and sixty-eight.

Steps have been taken to revive the dormant Societies of Georgia and Virginia, and will not North Carolina also knock for admission at the triennial meeting to be held in Philadelphia in 1896? There are living in the State lineal descendants of the original sixty-two members, and of other Continental officers who were entitled to membership, and it is the patriotic duty of these men to assert their heredi-

tary claims. At present only three members of the Cincinnati represent officers of the North Carolina Line: Judge William D. Harden, of Savanuah, great-grandson of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Pasteur, of New Bern, and Honorable George D. Johnston, of Washington, great-grandson of Major George Doherty, of Wilmington, who are both members of the South Carolina Cincinnati, and Professor Edward Graham Daves, of Baltimore, grandson of Major John Daves, of New Bern, who belongs to the Maryland Society.

The early meetings of the Cincinnati were conducted with much dignity and ceremony, the members assembling in full uniform or court dress, and after the transaction of business marching in stately procession to some church or public hall to listen to an elaborate address. All this has given way to modern republican simplicity, and there is now nothing more formal than an annual banquet, at which the themes of the speakers are the heroic deeds of our sires in the times that tried men's souls.

The Society has always warmly cherished love of country, and has helped many a widow or orphan in her hour of need. All prejudice against it has died away, and no one now withholds respect for an association which is alike illustrious in its origin, patriotic in its aims, and beneficent in its operations. It accentuates Americanism in the best sense of that term, and surely never was such an influence more needed than now, when the absorption of an enormous foreign element into the body politic is modifying our national character, and there is a dangerous tendency to depart too widely from the standards of our fathers.

The past score of years has witnessed a marked revival of interest in Revolutionary events, and a growing admiration for the wisdom and manly virtues of the founders of

the Republic. These sentiments have been quickened by the successive patriotic celebrations, which have extended from the hundredth anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, on 20th May, 1775, to that of the Inauguration of our first President, on 30th April, 1789, and will culminate in the unveiling of the superb equestrian statue of Washington erected in Philadelphia by the Pennsylvania Cincinnati.

In all this movement the Order of the Cincinnati has been a factor of potent influence, and it has within this period given birth to other similar organizations, such as that of the Sons of the Revolution, an association of like purpose and wider scope. These new societies show all the vigour and enthusiasm of youth, and they are rapidly multiplying the number of men and women who are making a special study of Colonial and Revolutionary history, and who find for noble patriotic work in the present, inspiration in our heroic past.

In reviewing the long life of the now venerable Society one finds that it has never swerved from its wise and noble purposes, and there is probably no patriot who would not echo the words of Washington in his letter to William Barton concerning the founding of the Order: "I am convinced that the members, actuated by motives of sensibility, charity and patriotism, are doing a laudable thing in erecting this memorial of their common services, sufferings and friendships."

ORIGINAL MEMBERS

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.*

Major-General—Robert Howe.

Brigadier-General—Jethro Sumner.

Colonel, and Brevet Brigadier-General—Thomas Clark.

Colonel—Archibald Lytle.

Lieutenant-Colonels—John Baptista Ashe, Henry Dixon, Hardy Murfree.

Major, and Lieutenant-Colonel by Brevet—Thomas Hogg.

Majors—Reading Blount, George Doherty, Griffith John McRee, William Polk.

Captains, and Majors by Brevet—Thomas Armstrong, Kedar Ballard, Benjamin Coleman, Robert Fenner, Clement Hall, Robert Raiford, James Read, Joseph T. Rhodes, Anthony Sharpe, Howell Tatum.

Captains—Samuel Ashe, Jr., Peter Bacot, George Bradley, Alexander Brevard, Thomas Callender, John Daves, Samuel Denny, Joshua Hadley, William Lytle, Joseph Montford, John Slaughter, William Williams, Edward Yarborough.

Lieutenant, and Captain by Brevet—James Campen.

Lieutenants—William Alexander, Robert Bell, Joseph Brevard, William Bush, John Campbell, Thomas Clark, Wynne Dixon, Richard Fenner, Thomas Finney, John Ford, Charles Gerard, Francis Graves, Robert Hayes, John Hill, Hardy Holmes, Curtis Ivey, Abner Lamb, James Moore, Thomas Pasteur, William Sanders, Jesse Stead.

Cornet—James McDougall.

Surgeon's Mates—James Fergus, William McLane.

Brigade Chaplain—Rev. Adam Boyd.

Deputy Paymaster-General—Jacob Blount.

*This list is probably not quite complete.

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